

K-64

John Reid House
520 High Street, Chestertown
c. 1775

By tradition, the two story brick houses numbered 518 and 520 High Street were constructed by members of the Reed (or Reid) family. From the land records it is difficult to pinpoint the exact date of acquisition of Lot 61 by John Reid, but in 1775, Robert Reid (probably his brother) acquired 1/2 of Lot 62 adjoining John's lot. The bounds of the half lot state "beginning at the end of an old building now in the possession of Sarah Craig and running from thence up High Street 66' to a new brick building in possession of John Reid . . . "1

In its original form, 520 High Street was a three bay, two story house built high above a kitchen basement. Like the facade of its contemporary, Hopkins House (K-66, 536 High Street), the central bay was a door, had two flanking windows and there were three symmetrically placed windows above. Unlike the Hopkins House however, the scale was smaller and the windows had 9/6 sash on the first floor and 6/6 sash on the second. Its plan consisted of a hall-parlor plan, like the Palmer House (K-65), with a kitchen basement.

What happened to John Reid has not been documented, but the properties fell on hard times under the ownership of the heirs of Robert Reid in the early 19th Century. They were finally sold in 1823 and 1829 to Thomas Dugan, who was listed as owning two houses on Lot 61, along with several other properties in the area in the 1841 Tax Assessment. Emiline Dugan owned a third dwelling on Lot 61 – this is documented in the tax

assessment as well.²

Between 1841 and 1900 there were seven owners, the last being Enoch Pleasanton. It was probably he who was responsible for installing a front porch across the facade and a frame leanto kitchen on the back of the building. The windows were changed and the plan altered to a center stair plan. The porch remained on the house until about 1980 when it was removed and replaced by a simple stoop. At the same time the facade was painted.

1. Land Records, Lib. DD 5, fol. 100.
2. 1841 Tax Assessment.

520 High St.

K 642

Chestertown, Md.

private residence

In unrestored condition externally, as compared to its neighbor 518, this attractive brick townhouse of the late 18th century is said to be built by a Reed (Reid?), a brother of the gentleman building 518.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1500642284643

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

520 High St.

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

☒PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Iva Elizabeth Smith

Telephone #: 778-2462

STREET & NUMBER

520 High St.

Chestertown, Md. 21620

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Clerk

Liber #: RAS 6

Folio #: 65

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County CourtHouse

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none known

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-64

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
X GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

520 High, and its next door neighbor, 518, while they have separate neighboring walls, have only about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of space between these walls. 520 is the longer of the two houses, and is 3 bays wide. It is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ storey house with a tar paper type roof and a chimney within either gable.

There are three dormers, with borken pediments, and all are double hung 6/6 sashes. There is a plan cornice and bargeboard on this house, painted white.

The second floor has three shuttered double hung windows, being 2/2. The first floor has two shuttered double hung 2/2 windows flanking a central ^{modern framed} doorway. A narrow porch runs the entire length of the first floor, with steps leading up it at the SE end. The house sits on a rather high brick foundation and there may be cellar windows under the porch. The water table runs to the level of the base of the front door. Brick bond on the front of the house is Flemish bond.

The NW side has a 4/4 double hung window in the gable peak, a newly installed casement type window on the 2nd floor level, and a shuttered double hung 2/2 window on the first floor level near the front corner. Brick bonding is American.

There is a frame addition on the rear of the house. The entire brickwork has been painted with a barn type color red several times, in contrast to 518 which has now had the paint removed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-64

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

___PREHISTORIC
___1400-1499
___1500-1599
___1600-1699
☒1700-1799
___1800-1899
___1900-

___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
___AGRICULTURE
☒ARCHITECTURE
___ART
___COMMERCE
___COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

___COMMUNITY PLANNING
___CONSERVATION
___ECONOMICS
___EDUCATION
___ENGINEERING
___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
___INDUSTRY
___INVENTION

___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
___LAW
___LITERATURE
___MILITARY
___MUSIC
___PHILOSOPHY
___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

___RELIGION
___SCIENCE
___SCULPTURE
___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___THEATER
___TRANSPORTATION
___OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES by 1775

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

520 High, and its presently being restored neighbor 518 High, are good examples of late 18th century or possibly early 19th century townhouses. While much less ornate than their counterparts on Water Street they no doubt served their owners well and were large, comfortable homes of the period.

In this block of 500 High St. one can see several such homes and it is most probable there was a bit more land to go with each one than there is at present.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-64

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.107 acres more or less

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

beginning at a point on NE side of High St., which pt. is distant
nw 335.7' from NE corner Kent and High, thence running along High
1. N 45°00' W 35' to lands of J. H. Simpers
2. N 45°00' E 132.5' to lands of heirs of M.A. Toulson
3. S 45°00' E 35' to lands of Jacob Allan
4. S 45°00' W 132.5' to the beginning
being a parallelogram 35' x 132.5' perpendicular to High St.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathleen B. White, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Historical Trust, City of Chestertown

DATE

Sept. 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

520 High St.

RAS 6/65 1/10/31 Millie Walmsley and Artemus Walmsley to Iva Elizabeth Smith, & Edward Frank Smith, husband.

Will

SGC 1/312 12/29/27 of Enoch Pleasonton to daughter Mollie Walmsley, lot and house on High St.

JTD 29/342 2/19/14 Owen B. Crow and Ella B. Crow, and May F. Crow, Lillie M. Crow Lackie and Harry Lackie her husband, children of Nathaniel Crow, lott and brick dwelling known as the Chestnut property, 42 ft. more or less; depth, 132' 6" more or less, to Enoch Pleasonton.

JTD 1/367 8/23/98 Edwin H. Brown, Assignee of Mortgage for Mary A. Gleaves to Jospeh O Rasin, Administrator (7/28/86 SR 8/128) to Nathaniel Crow. assigned to Brown 3/12/98 SB 8/131, lot and brick dwelling, sold for \$352.00.

JKH 2/287 11/15/60 Wm. Chestnut and Samuel P. Townsend to Mary Ann Rollison (Gleaves), brick house and lot, #62, \$575.

JKH 1/107 3/19/58 Samuel Frazier and Emeline E. Frazier, wife to Wm. Chestnut and Samuel P. Townsend, brick house and town lot #62, \$611.00.

JKH 1/107 3/19/58 George Vickers and Richard Hynson, Trustees of late Edward A. Moore, to Samuel Frazier, Decree of Circuit Court of Kent County, 11/13/56, GV and RH appointed Trustees to dispose of Usilton property.

JFG 3/221 8/23/55 Aquilla A. Usilton and wife, Josephine, to Edward A. Moore. Usiltions owed debts including purchase price of house. Edward A. Moore to sell to pay all of Usiltions' debts.

JFG 2/547 8/29/54 Bartus P. and Rachel Hatcheson to Josephine Usilton, brick house and lot #62, \$700.00

JFG 2/235 6/1/54 Aquilla A. and Josephine Usilton to Bartus P. Hatcheson. \$1,200.00.

JFG 1/32 12/3/52 Henry W. Archer and John K. Ing, Trustees appointed by High Court of Chancery, 8/26/51. sold to Aquilla A. Usilton, in front of the premises, lot and appurtenances on 11/1/51, ratified by the Chancellor 5/6/52, recorded 1/11/53.

? see reverse and *

DD 5/100 5/4/1775 Elizabeth Tuille to Robert Reed, #62, old building, owned by Sara Craig, then parallel with High St. 66' to new brick building in possession of John Reid, and then perpendicularly to Calvert. Deed states that Elizabeth Tuille received this property in 1775 in will from James Harris "old prize house formerly stood on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre more or less."

Will 11/26/65 of James Harris "my 2 lotts of ground lying and being in Chester Town" to Elizabeth Tuille.

Accidently, I came across in

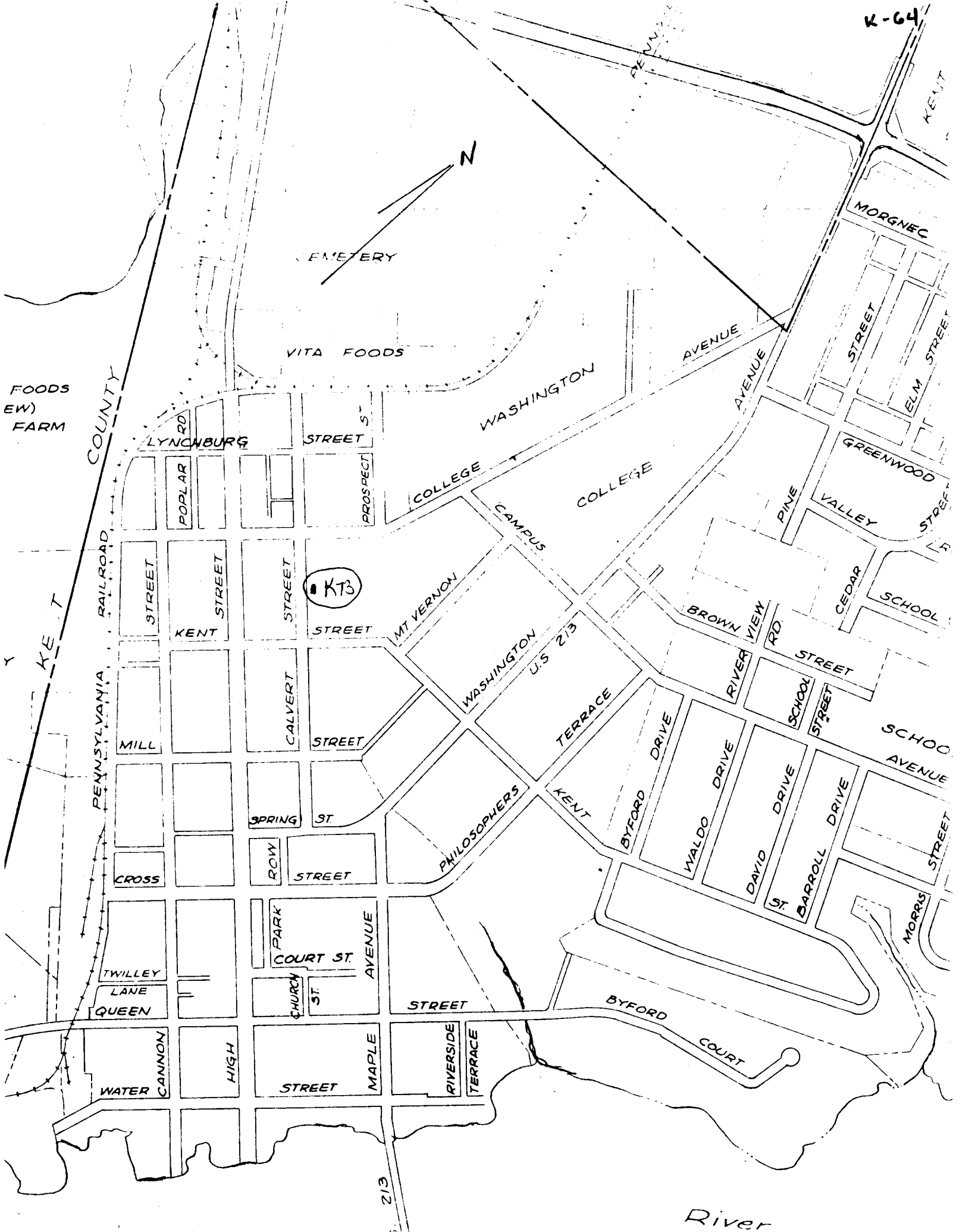
TW 4/364 2/5/1823 John L. Reid of Philadelphia to Thomas E. Dugan,
for \$100 current money, #62 and house
It also says that this was willed from Sarah
Craig on 5/21/1783 to John L. Reid who is the
eldest son of James and thus entitled to it.

What the relationship is between James, and Robert - to whom Elizabeth
Tuille sold it-is unknown.

This might also be in error as far as the number of the plot goes
and could be referring to #61, 518 High, which is stopped as far as
tracing goes in 1829. However, I am inclined to believe that both
properties, 518 and 520, were owned by Reeds (Reids?) and that
Dugan may have brought both.

Local people say that brothers in the need (Reid?) family built
both 518 and 520.

K-64



FOODS
EW)
FARM

COUNTY
RAILROAD
PENNSYLVANIA
KENT

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

LYNCBURG

STREET

POPLAR

PROSPECT

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

KENT

MILL

CALVERT

STREET

SPRING

ST

CROSS

ROW

STREET

TWILLEY

LANE

QUEEN

PARK

COURT ST.

CHURCH

ST

AVENUE

WATER

CANNON

HIGH

STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE

TERRACE

STREET

BYFORD

COURT

COLLEGE

CAMPUS

COLLEGE

MT VERNON

WASHINGTON

US 213

TERRACE

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

BARROLL DRIVE

BROWN VIEW RD

RIVER

SCHOOL

STREET

SCHOOL

STREET

SCHOOL AVENUE

STREET

MORRIS

River

213

MORGNEC

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD

VALLEY

STREET

CEDAR

SCHOOL

STREET

JAMES A. SHAW, Collector of Fourth District.

ATTORNEYS.

D. J. BLACKISTON, Attorney at Law.
VICKERS & SON, Attorneys at Law, Practice in Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne, Caroline and Talbot Counties.
JAMES A. PEARCE, Attorney at Law.
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EDITORS.

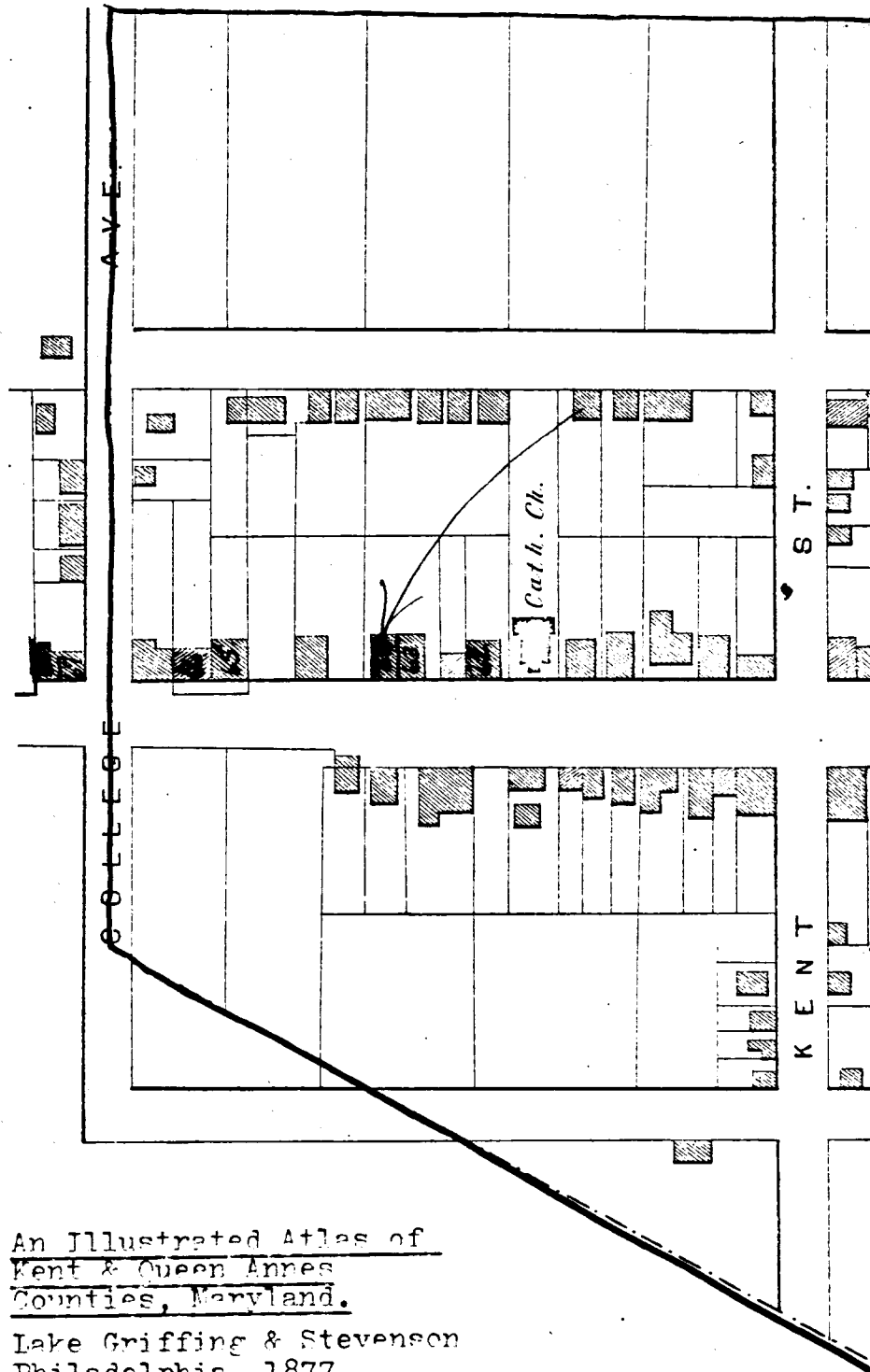
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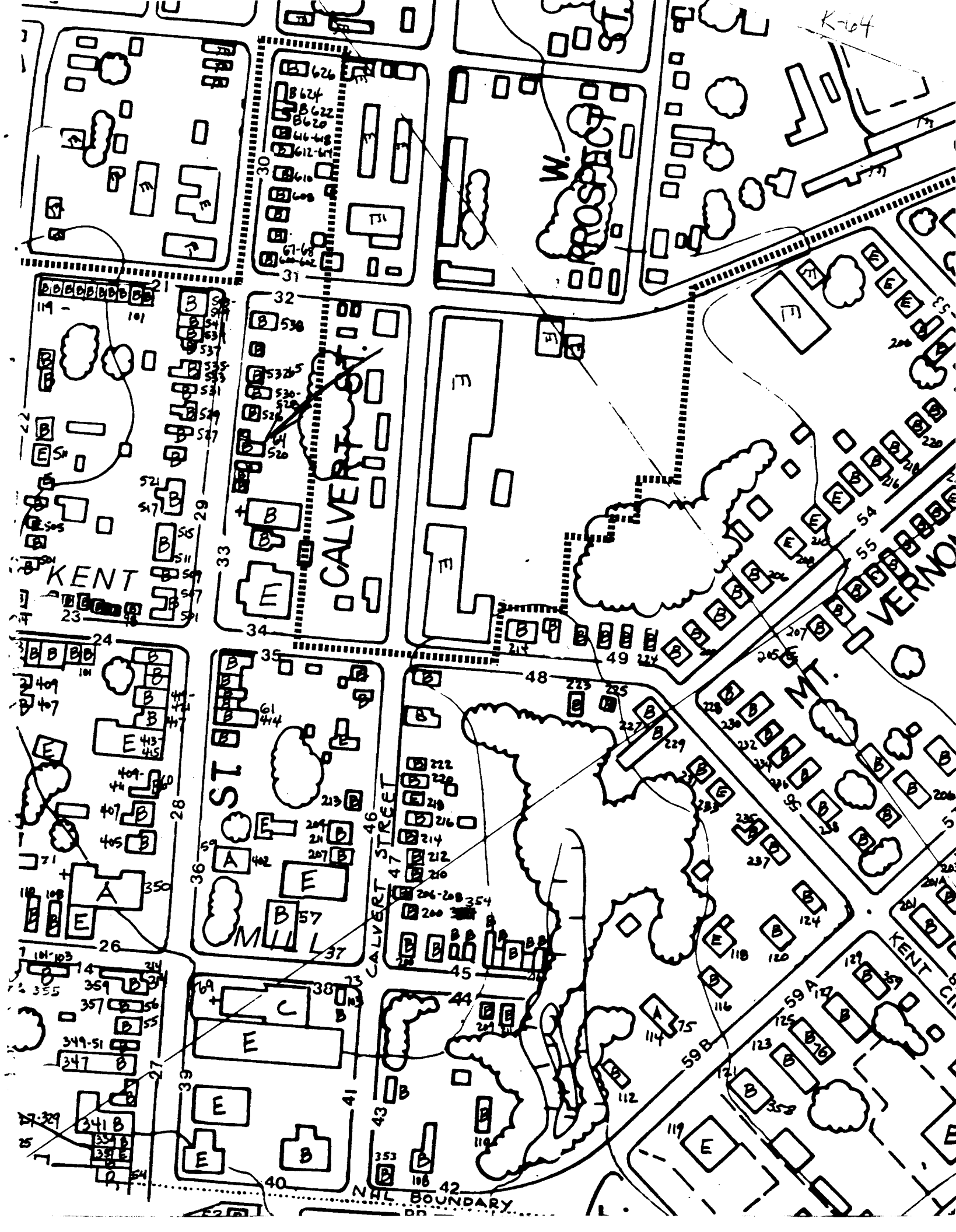
K-C 4



An Illustrated Atlas of
Kent & Queen Anne's
Counties, Maryland.

Lake Griffing & Stevenson
Philadelphia, 1877.

Prepared by MOB
6/1/71



K-164

PROSPECT

CALVERT ST.

KENT

MT. VERNON

ST.

CALVERT STREET

KENT ST.

NHL BOUNDARY



K 2A ~~4.1B~~ 518-520 High
1/77 S



K 09 ~~118~~

518-520 High

1/77 S + W



K-64 + K-63

MHT Vertical File

Collage P. Y
H 3

7/12

Kent Co. Chestertown 522, 520, 518, 516, 514 High St.

James M Kilvington 3175 from W. Collage